



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Eielson Facts and Figures

The Base

Eielson Air Force Base occupies 63,195 acres southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. The runway is oriented north to south and is 14,507 feet long. It was extended to its present length in the 1950s to accommodate B-36 aircraft, and is the second longest runway in North America.

Population

About 3,000 military people work at Eielson. The base has 1,476 houses for the 3,200 active duty and family members who live on base. An additional 1,800 active duty, Reserve and Guard servicemembers and their families live off-base. More than 500 retirees from all branches of the military reside in the area.

Rounding out the total military-related population are about 1,100 civilian employees and more than 600 traditional and full-time Air National Guard members.

Economic Impact

The total payroll for active duty military employees is about \$133 million. The base contracting office awarded more than \$121 million to local contractors in fiscal 2003.

Organizations

The 354th Fighter Wing is the host unit at Eielson. The unit is assigned to 11th Air Force, headquartered at Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage. Eleventh Air Force falls under Pacific Air Forces, which is headquartered at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

The 354th FW equips and trains its 18th Fighter Squadron to conduct offensive counter-air, interdiction, and close-air support roles in the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The wing's 355th Fighter Squadron flies the A-10 and OA-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft in CAS missions and in a forward air control capacity during joint U.S. Army and Air Force contingencies.

The 354th Medical Group provides outpatient medical and dental care. Hospital inpatient services are provided by Bassett Army Community Hospital located on nearby Fort Wainwright or through other military and civilian hospitals.

Associate Units

Detachment 1, 66th Training Squadron, provides Arctic survival training. The “Cool School” instructs about 650 students each year. Instructors at the Air Education and Training Command-assigned unit also provide ground search and rescue capability on and around Eielson.

Detachment 460, Air Force Technical Applications Center, operates and maintains a significant part of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. Det. 460 is responsible for monitoring certain provisions of the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty. To accomplish this, the detachment operates and maintains several unmanned seismic arrays and air sampling systems across Alaska.

The 353rd Combat Training Squadron controls and maintains Eielson’s vast aerial ranges, used to provide air-to-ground training for Eielson pilots and visiting aircrews during Cope Thunder exercises. The 353rd CTS’s range division oversees scheduling, operation and maintenance of three impact areas covering more than 90,000 acres and about 60,000 square miles of military training airspace, making it the nation's largest contiguous supersonic training area.

Alaska Air National Guard

The 168th Air Refueling Wing of the Alaska Air National Guard flies KC-135 Stratotankers to provide aerial refueling support to Eielson’s aircraft and aircraft which move throughout the region. The 168th ARW is the only Arctic region refueling unit for all of PACAF.

Detachment 1, 210th Rescue Squadron provides maintenance and operations support for up to two HH-60G rescue helicopters deployed here from Kulis Air National Guard Base, Anchorage. Operating helicopters from Eielson provides quicker response for search-and-rescue operations — to support the military and civilian communities — north of the Alaska Range.

(Current as of January 2003)